

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 THESSA 00517 241449Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 /069 W

----- 044397

R 241310Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1598

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0517

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI REACTION TO PRISONER RELEASE

REF: ATHENS 5919

1. SINCE AUGUST 19 ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, ALL THESSALONIKI PAPERS HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE TO PRISONER RELEASE. ATTENTION LARGELY FOCUSED ON PANAGOULIS BROTHERS AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, ON LOCAL PERSONALITIES INVOLVED. OF LATTER, RELEASE OF PROMINENT THESSALONIKI LAWYER STELIOS NESTOR, ARRESTED HERE IN MAY 1968 WITH "DEMOKRATIKI AMINA" GROUP HAS RECEIVED SPECIAL COVERAGE.

2. "THESSALONIKI" OF AUGUST 23 CARRIED INTERVIEW BY ATHENS CORRESPONDENT WITH NESTOR AT HOME OF FORMER CO-PRISONER PAVLOS ZANNAS, WHO RELEASED IN JANUARY 1972 FOR HEALTH REASONS. (THESSALONIKI 0028). NESTOR DESCRIBED TERM AS "ACT OF CONSCIENCE" AND STATED THAT GOVERNMENT PRESSURE OF INDIVIDUALS CAN ONLY RESULT IN HARM TO STATE. DISCLAIMING PERSONAL HATRED NESTOR BLAMED GREEK "INSTITUTIONS" RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITIES. NESTOR PLANNING TO RESUME THESSALONIKI LAW PRACTICE AND PUBLISH LEGAL STUDY BASED ON INSIGHTS FROM PRISON. NO EMPHASIS ON NEED TO EXPLAIN "WHY HE ENTERED PRISON" MAY ALSO INDICATE PLANS FOR PUBLIC ROLE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 THESSA 00517 241449Z

3. GENERAL REACTION HERE OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE TO AMNESTY, AND SOME REGIME CRITICS HAVE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ALLEGED TORTURE WAS PRIMARY OBJECTION TO REGIME. OTHERS SPECULATE ON ROLE RELEASED PRISONERS MAY NOW PLAY AND BELIEVE THAT AMNESTY HAS ROBBED OPPOSITION OF MAJOR WEAPON.

4. IN SOMEWHAT COMIC SIDELIGHT HERE, 169 COMMON PRISONERS IN THESSALONIKI JAIL INCLUDING DEBTORS, TRAFFIC VIOLATORS ETC. WENT ON HUNGER STRIKE AUGUST 23 FOR EXTENSION OF AMNESTY TO ALL. APPETITES PREVAILED BY DINNER TIME, HOWEVER, WHEN STRIKE WAS SUMMARILY SUSPENDED.  
BRENNAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973THESSA00517  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** THESSALONIKI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730816/aaaaalea.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ATHENS 5919  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THESSALONIKI REACTION TO PRISONER RELEASE  
**TAGS:** PINS, GR, (THESSALONIKI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005